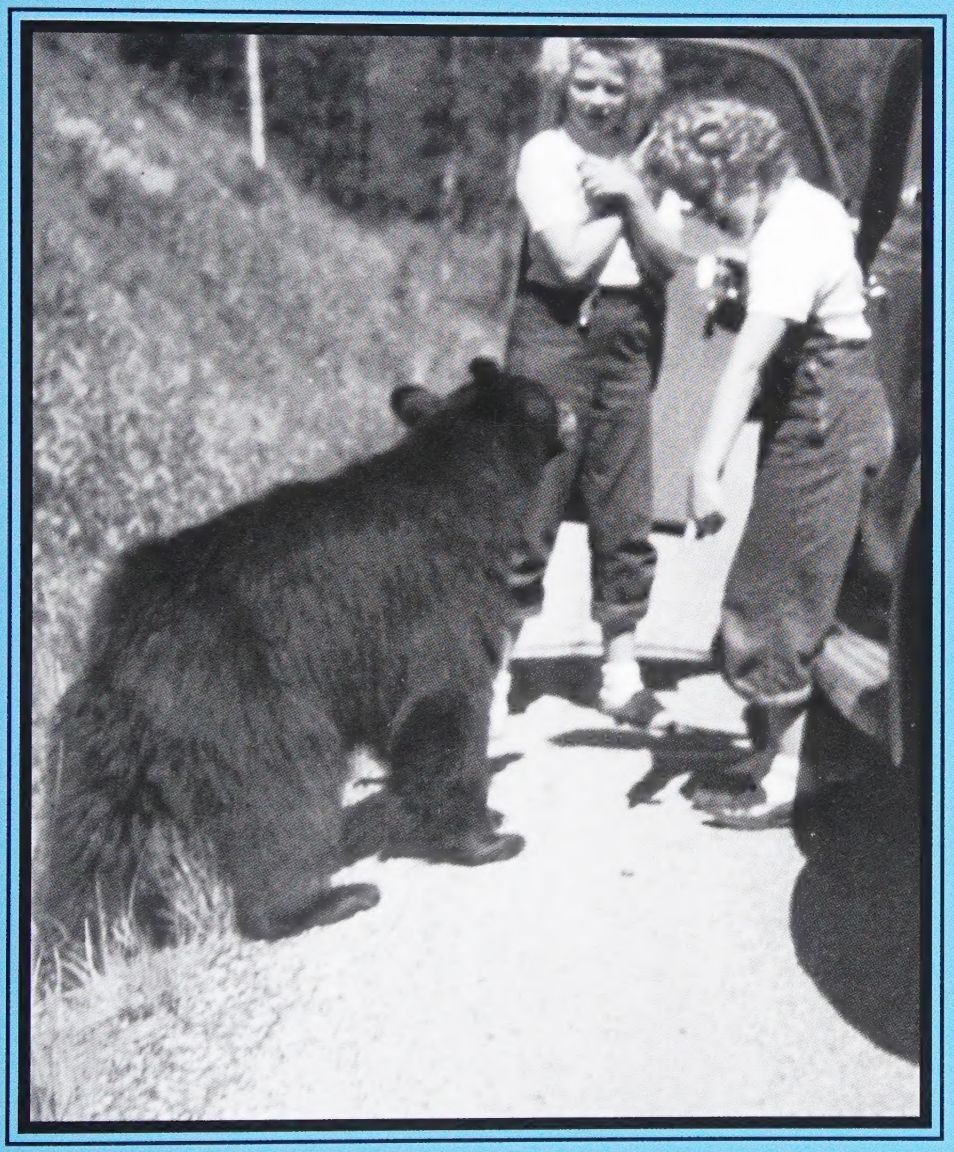
Clatsop County Historical Society Quarterly

# CUMTUX



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From the Denyer Coll. #190.110.034

Jewell residents prepared to hunt predators that attack their farm animals.

In This Issue ...

In *Cumtux*, we try to print stories that cover a wide range of experiences our residents have had. Stanley Paul Young's story is unique. A son of one of the wealthiest men in Astoria, he found he was more suited to being alone in a wilderness populated by the most dangerous animals on this continent. His name turned up by accident while trying to learn about a bounty register book donated to CCHS a few years ago. It lists payments to local residents for the killing of predators and nuisance animals. Stanley Young became an authority on the subject and we include stories we found about him.

A poem printed in an old newspaper inspired Melvin Bashore to research the names of Blind Slough people and he was able to fill in the details of their lives. He has previously written for Cumtux.

"As Others See Us" was written in 1885 by a man from California who had applied for a job with an Astoria newspaper but didn't get it. As a result, we have his soured view of Astoria that was probably true in some respects.

A 70-year-old newsletter created by the students at the Lewis & Clark School (also known as Central) in Astoria is reprinted in this issue. Many of the students are still around here.

—The Editor

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# CUMTUX

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Contents:

1 Predator Control
*by the Editor*

19 Biologist Sees Trapping Business As Profitable for Returning Veterans

20 As Others See Us

25 Dusty Streets

26 The Blind Slough Poet's Friends
*by Melvin L. Bashore*

34 Stanley Paul Young, 1889–1969
*Richard H. Manville*

45 *Lewis and Clark Times*

48 Boy-Around-The-House
*by Stanley P. Young*

Front Cover: A bear at Yellowstone Park in 1953 shows no interest in candy my sister Karen dropped on the ground while our father photographed us. The rule now is to stay at least a hundred yards away from bears in the park or risk being fined (or mauled). —By the Editor.

*CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:*
*"To know...to inform"*

# Predator Control
## The Animal Bounty

*by the Editor*

A few old record books from the Clatsop County courthouse have found a home at CCHS. One of the most unusual is the Clatsop County Bounty Record (Accession # 17.002.037), with entries dating from July 6, 1945, to June 30, 1966. The book lists the names of people requesting payment (bounty) for killing certain animals that were a danger or a nuisance to the residents of the area. The book was originally one of many but now appears to be only one of two that still survive. It contains about 2,570 names of hunters and trappers, both male and female. Along each entry was written the type of animal killed and the value of each one. The applicant was to provide to the clerk at the county office a part of the animal's body as proof it was dead, after which they were to receive payment or a warrant (promise to pay).

The bounty system for animal predators went all the way back in America to the arrival of European settlers in the 1490s and was adopted here in the Northwest several years before Oregon became a state. The settlers traveled long distances to find a piece of land where they could raise cows, pigs, sheep and chickens, and plant vegetable gardens and fruit trees. All this attracted a variety of predators.

In 1843, residents of the Oregon Country were urged to attend a meeting called by William H. Gray to discuss raising money to pay for the killing of wolves. It was the first in a series of "Wolf Meetings" which called for the people of the Oregon Country to organize a local government. A few years later a portion of it joined the U.S. as a "territory" and after a further division, a portion of that became the State of Oregon. Out of the Wolf meetings, came the Animal Bounty Bill 1849. A transcript of the law from the official website of the Oregon Secretary of State follows.

### A Bill

To be entitled an act to provide for the destruction of wild animals therein mentioned.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon; that there shall be paid out of the county treasury of the proper county on the order of the county commissioners to any person who shall at any regular or

special session of the county court in this territory, present to said court, the scalp of any panther, tiger, cougar, lynx, wild-cat, large wolf or prairie wolf and declare under oath, that the animal from which the said scalp was taken was killed in the said county; when the same is presented, the following premiums shall be awarded viz; for each panther, the sum of three dollars, for each tiger, the sum of three dollars; for each cougar, the sum of three dollars; for each lynx, the sum of three dollars; and for each prairie-wolf, the sum of one dollar and fifty cents.

Panthers and tigers were not native to this area, but the early pioneers soon learned what predators were here. Early newspapers reported on interactions residents had with wild animals like the following:

> HEROIC ACT.—A few days since, Col. James Taylor of this city sent a fine lot of stock hogs across to his farm on Youngs Bay for safekeeping. Soon after arriving there, during the night, the hogs were attacked by bears, and Mrs. Munson, wife of the man living on the farm, hearing the noise and squealing of the hogs, ran out of the house to see what was the matter, when she beheld bruin hugging a good-sized pig tightly in his fore paws, the pig squealing for dear life. No time was to be lost, and as Mrs. M. concluded not to stand by and see the porker carried off in that manner, she picked up a club and started after the bear, pursuing it so closely that the beast dropped its prey and beat a hasty retreat from that quarter. This may be considered an act of heroism, but the lady was only slightly discomfited, and again retired with the consciousness of having accomplished a good night's work.[1]

## Primary Target Animals

Predators injurious to livestock and game interests were the first animals chosen to be on the bounty lists. The choice of animal rested with the state and the county. These varied according to the environments they preferred, grassland or forests, or river shore. Clatsop County's predators were mainly bears, coyotes, and bobcats. Wolves and cougars were more common in other counties but remained on Clatsop County's list. The amount

1. "Heroic Act." *Tri-Weekly Astorian* (Astoria, OR), August 12, 1873.

### Candy bars vs. People

| | |
|---|---|
| I Love Me | Too many to name |
| Three Muskateers | Neal Mattson |
| | Ronnie Brock |
| | Jack Leinenweber |
| Babe Ruth | Linda Ruth Williams |
| Oh Henry | Henry Geissel |
| Big Hunk | Charles Mathre |
| Look | Connie Bubnick |
| Snickers | Richard Safley |
| Power House | Barry Lempea |
| Good and Plenty | Ione Bubnick |
| Butter Finger | Bill Hanselman |

### Eighth Grade Girl of the Month:

Her hair is blond and her eyes are brown. She is 5' 2" tall and she weighs 103 pounds. Her favorite song is "Baby, Baby, Baby," and her favorite food is chicken. She is 13 years old and born in Astoria. – Judi Branthover

### Eighth Grade Boy of the Month:

His hair is brown and his eyes are blue. He is 5' 4" tall and weighs 105 pounds. His favorite food is sirloin steak and his favorite song is "Who Drank My Beer While I Was in the Rear." He was born in Astoria. His pet peeve is Dick Hellberg. – David Parker

*If you have more of these school publications, please donate originals or photocopies to: CCHS, P.O. Box 88, Astoria, Oregon 97103 or drop them off at the Heritage Museum at 16th & Exchange weekdays.*

# Boy-Around-The-House
## At the Benjamin Young House

*by Stanley P. Young*

THERE WERE ALWAYS—ALWAYS boy-around-the-house jobs to do, handed down from Johan to Sig to Arthur and finally to me, such as painting all the gutters, tin roof, putting in twenty cords of wood each fall, weeding, cutting lawn, dunging out pig, chicken, cow and horse stalls, trimming juniper hedge, picking plums and cherries to be canned, also currants for jelly (the currant bushes were on the east side of the house next to the Holmes house), also filling fireplaces, heating stoves, coal oil lamps, plus glove [globe] and wick trimming, oiling horse harness, greasing buggy and carriage wheels, getting hay into barn loft, manure to garden in spring. The horse harness was always stored in the attic next to the ladder as you go up to get out of the top of the house. Awnings, another boy-around-the-house job, always went up on the front porch in early June and came down with the beginning of September rains. They were stored in the attic when they came down, as was the porch furniture.

The old home had most of the garden paths covered with tanbark that we obtained from the old tannery located just back of the present site of the Old Custom House. The tanbark was bucked up via wheelbarrow, another boy-around-the-house job! When the wooden walks around the house would rot out, the then leading boy-around-the-house (age determined this) was delegated to relay the same, with Dad standing by as Boss!!

In winter, carriage horses were sent out to pasture in Nehalem Valley to be brought back in late spring. Then began the job of greasing carriages and getting harnesses down from the attic.

Every spring, all carpets were taken off all the floors and put out on lines, and the hell beat out of them to knock out accumulated dust. Then, they were brought back in and retacked down. What a Job! I always sneezed a week or longer after that awful job.

CCHS IMAGE #88.097.003

Lewis and Clark Central School Class of 1954, Room 25.

*left to right, front row:* Marlyn Fisher, Doris Thies, Mary Lowe, Danny Williams, Bill Hanselman, Ron Brock, John Attig, Ron Poole, Robert Braydon. *2nd row:* Linda Williams, Kathleen Bauer, Susan Rafferty, Jim Whitman, Fred Oltmann, Buck Teasley, Bill Stanley, Richard Niemi, Dennis Koskela. *3rd row:* Mary Hanson, Liisa Mellin, Sandie Rasmus, Denyse Sehorn, Larry Collins, Mike Foster, Ken Wong. *Back row:* Sara Hall, Chuck Mathre, Richard Safley, Ron Clark. Names listed on back but do not appear in photo: Judy Branthover, Malcolm E. Van Meer (teacher), Eleanor Iverson (teacher).